

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /020 R

66612

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APPROVED BY: EB/TD: JJO'NEILL, JR.

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R 051955Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 141900 ACTION EC BRUSSELS MADRID INFO BONN
BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LONDON OECD PARIS LUXEMBOURG PARIS
THE HAGUE ROME AND GENEVA 17 JUN 75

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, ETEL, EEC

SUBJECT: TELECOMMUNICATIONS: HARMONIZATION AT THE
--- EUROPEAN LEVEL

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 2812, B) EC BRUSSELS 3269

1. US TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS AND
CARRIERS AS WELL AS USG TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS WILL
BE FOLLOWING CLOSELY EC COMMISSION PROPOSALS TO HARMONIZE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE FRAME-
WORK OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNI-
CATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS (CEPT).

2. THE PRINCIPLE OF HARMONIZATION IS VIEWED FAVORABLY,
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PARTICULARLY BY THE CARRIERS. WE WOULD WANT TO MAKE

SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ADVERSE IMPACT ON U.S. EXPORTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS BEFORE ADOPTING A DEFINITE POSITION ON THE SPECIFIC EC COMMISSION PROPOSALS. WE WOULD FAVOR GLOBAL RATHER THAN REGIONAL APPROACH TO STANDARDS HARMONIZATION AND ASSUME THAT ANY HARMONIZATION DONE ON A REGIONAL BASIS UNDER CEPT WOULD BE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS.

3. US TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE MEANS THAT MAY BE ADOPTED TO CARRY OUT THE COMMISSION'S PARALLEL OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATION, MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. WE UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR THEIR CONCERN AND SHARE THEIR VIEW THAT ANY CEPT-SPONSERED STANDARDS HARMONIZATION SHOULD NOT DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IMPAIR US EXPORTS.

4. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS, EC COMMISSION TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CHIEF, LEON SULLIAN, INDICATED AWARENESS OF US CONCERNS AND SAID THAT EUROPEAN HARMONIZATION WOULD BE DESIGNED TO AVOID ADVERSE EFFECTS ON US INTERESTS.

5. US EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS WOULD LIKE THE US TO BE IN A POSITION TO HAVE AN INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS AND TESTING/CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES. THIS INTEREST LED TO THE US NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (USNC-IEC) TO UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMEND AT A MEETING IN APRIL THAT THE USG ENCOURAGE EUROPEANS TO WORK TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT IN STANDARDS-MAKING WITH SUCH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION, THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION. THEY ALSO URGED THE US TO SEEK OFFICIAL OBSERVER STATUS IN THE CEPT AND RECOMMENDED THE ADOPTION OF A STANDARDS CODE WITHIN THE GATT.

6. FYI: GOVERNMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS CONSIDER IT PREMATURE TO APPROACH CEPT REGARDING OBSERVER STATUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNTIL WE HAVE STUDIED THE ISSUE FURTHER. END FYI.

7. FOR EC BRUSSELS: MISSION REQUESTED TO CONTINUE REPORTING ON THE PROGRESS OF THIS EC INITIATIVE AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR SPECIFIC STANDARDS. MISSION MAY DRAW UPON PARAS 1-5 IN DISCUSSIONS WITH LOEFF, LEYTON OR OTHER EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS. MORE DETAILED COMMENTS FROM INDUSTRY ON THIS ISSUE BEING POUCHED.

8. FOR MADRID: SPANISH PTT APPARENTLY WAS HOST TO RECENT BIENNIAL PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF CEPT IN TORREMOLINOS. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCUSS MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO LEARN TO WHAT EXTENT RESOLUTIONS AIMED AT RESTRUCTURING CEPT (REPORTED REFTEL B, REPEATED TO MADRID) WERE ACCEPTED. ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE EMBASSY MAY OBTAIN REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS WORK, PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING STANDARDS, WOULD BE USEFUL. IS THERE A PERMANENT CEPT SECRETARIAT OR OFFICIAL TO WHOM INQUIRIES AND COMMUNICATIONS MIGHT BE ADDRESSED? KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE141900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/TD: JJO'NEILL:SP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750878/aaaacrcm.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 EC BRUSSELS 2812, 75 EC BRUSSELS 3269
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TELECOMMUNICATIONS: HARMONIZATION AT THE --- EUROPEAN LEVEL
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, ETEL, EEC
To: STOCKHOLM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006